

Cycling highlight on

Nearly 50 countries have entered the world cycling championship just started on the track of the town of Bassano del Grappa in northern Italy.

In the absence of triple sprint world champion Sergei Kopylov who has been taken ill the Soviet team has fielded 20-year-old Nikolai Kovsh who won the world junior title three years ago and has just won the national title and 22-year-old Oleg Mikhelishvili, trained by world ex-champion Oleg Prikhodko. World record-holder Erika Savin leads the Soviet women's sprint team.

A Soviet team veteran, 1980 Olympic silver medalist Alexander Pantlov is scheduled to compete in the 1,000 m time trials standing start. This year he has shown fine consistency. Incidentally, Kopylov won the event at the 1983 world championships.

Most observers at the cham-

ampionship think the USSR could do well in the 4,000 m individual and team pursuit races. In the first event twice national champion Umbras Cintautas from Lithuania has suffered only a single reverse over the past two seasons. A year back he won the Drizhba-84 event at the Krylat-skoje Olympic track in the company of top racers.

The GDR will field its finest cyclists led by 1980 Olympics sprint champion Lutz Henschel. He proved his fine fettle by very fast times he recently clocked at Colorado Springs, US. The GDR will aspire to titles in all events.

The US will field Los Angeles Olympics winners Mark Gorski in the sprint and Steve Hegge in the individual pursuit race.

Road racers will compete in the town of Clavenna-del-Mantello in the team race on August 29 and the lunch race on August 31.



Moscow Slava beat Moscow Lokomotiv 21-10 (photo) to win the National Cup. Currently the Soviet first and second teams as well as Romania, Poland and Czechoslovakia are competing for the Soviet Rugby Federation Prize in Moscow.

This tournament is held for the 12th time.

Photo by Sergei Proskov

Bobsleigh stands to gain

Members of the International Bobsleighing and Tobogganing Federation have unanimously praised the world's first ever summer tob competition "Auker Bob-85" held on an artificial ice course in Riga, capital of Latvia, USSR.

We first had the idea of holding a summer bob event last year, Federation president Klaus Kothler of West Germany told a TASS correspondent. True, we already held some events using roller bobs on a concrete covering, but none has ever competed so early on the ice. Already the first showing in Riga exceeded our expectations.

These "sprint" matches can easily match in excitement the real bob thing and we simply need them. Indeed, success or failure at the start affects a crew's performance in general, which is why it is very important to master the starting phase right during the summer's training. Such events benefit not just sportsmen but judges and other federation commissions, too.

It is symbolic that the first summer contest was held precisely in the Soviet Union, where bobsleigh is gaining momentum. Kothler concluded, even though it made its appearance in the country less than five years ago. Now it is practised by nearly 2,000 people in 29 countries.

First champions

The USSR won the first ever junior under-20 world bobsleigh championship in Colorado Springs, US, beating South Korea 80-75 in the final.

Appeal declined

The UEFA disciplinary commission has considered an appeal by English Liverpool and Italy's Juventus who were strictly punished after the disaster at the finals of the European Champions Cup on May 29 at the Heysel Stadium in Brussels.

Liverpool, along with all other English football clubs, was disqualified for an indefinite pe-

riod of time and banned from UEFA tournaments for another three years. This was what the club appealed against.

Juventus protested the UEFA decision to allow it hold its next two home European Champions Cup games without any fans admitted to the stands. Juventus' president Boniperti demanded that the games be held on a neutral ground and with fans.

UEFA spokesman told the press they had weighed all the pros and cons and concluded that the demands of both clubs contained nothing new. The clubs were responsible for their fans' conduct and therefore the UEFA sanctions still stand.

According to Liverpool director Tony Anson, his club's disqualification would do it much financial damage.

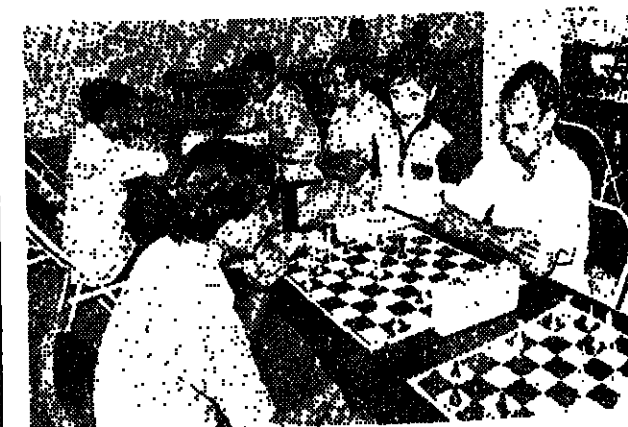
Mountain climbing

A feature of the national rock climbing championship now drawing to a close is that in three of four classes awards were presented to participants at the foot of the summits they conquered, said USSR Sports Committee coach Vladimir Shalayer, commenting on the outcome.

He praised the Russian Federation which took the rock, technical and ice-and-snow classes where competition was held in two stages — first the "school" (technical merits) and later immediate ascents.

The weather helped climbers in the rock and the ice-and-snow classes to fully show their worth but rain and strong wind did that impossible in the technical class.

I think that the ice-and-snow class was the most exciting this summer. Despite the fact that the Caucasus is one of the most frequented alpine areas, championship participants were good at improvising routes to the summits, Shalayer stressed.



The Alyokhin chess club run by the Soviet cultural centre in Calcutta is very popular with local chess devotees. Its membership is 100 ever on the up and has now topped 500.

12th title for USSR

The Soviet Union has won its 12th world polo championship title totalling 16,000 points. Hungary came second with 574 points lost and Italy was third with 15,402.

Surprisingly, the individual title was taken by 24-year-old college student from Budapest Atilla Miszer with 5,525 points. Moscow Olympic winner Anatoly Sirostkin of the USSR placed second with 5,505 and his teammate Igor Shvarts placed third with 5,502. Another Soviet entrant Andoly Avdeyev was seventh with 5,202.

France takes International Cup

France downed Uruguay 2-0 to win the first ever Intercontinental Cup named after former UEFA president Artemio Franchi, with goals from Rocheteau and Touré.

The 15,000 viewers at the Parc-Princes stadium were disappointed by the South American performance. The French dominated throughout and deservedly won.

The tournament was sponsored by UEFA and the South American Football Confederation and pitted the European and South American top sides.



Moscow Fiti have beaten a visiting Maltese field-hockey team 5-0.

Photo by Pyotr Sergeyev

In the CPSU Central Committee

The CPSU Central Committee held a conference on August 23 pertaining to elaborating plans for the economic and social development of the USSR in 1985 and during the 12th Five-Year Development Plan period.

Addressing the conference General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev noted that the Party and the entire people are going through a responsible period of preparations for the 27th CPSU Congress. One of the major documents during the Congress will be Guidelines for the Country's Economic and Social Development in the 12th Five-Year Development Plan Period and in the Period up to the Year 2000. The Guidelines are to be specified in the annual plans.

The performance of the national economy in the first year of the five-year period should bring maximal results, it should set the necessary pace and become the start for an important stage of practical implementation of the Party line towards a breakthrough in the economic development.

The main criterion in assessing draft plans of every ministry and every department is their correspondence with the tasks set out in the draft Guidelines for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR during the 12th Five-Year Development Plan period. To perform this task there should be an allround support for and dissemination of the initiative by

the labour collectives of associations and enterprises, industrial branches which pledge to exceed the targets planned for them through the introduction on a wide scale of scientific and technological achievements and advanced methods, through bringing into play reserve capacities of production, through saving material and financial resources, through improvement of discipline and quality of their performance.

The conference voiced sharp criticism of industrial, building and transport ministries which are being slow to change over to an intensive way of development, which are not quite up to meeting the requirements by the Party for a sharp increase in the key technological and economic indicators for speeding up the scientific and technological progress, for the rational utilization of material resources.

It pointed to the importance of improving in every way in 1985 the performance of the industrial branches in the fuel and energy complex, the production of construction materials, the increasing of the output and the raising of the quality of consumer goods, of providing services for the population. It was stressed that all ministries and departments, irrespective of their sectoral specialization, should pool efforts to meet demands of the population.

Round the Soviet Union

THE ARCHITECTURAL MONUMENT OF BYELORUSSIA — THE INTERCESSION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN CHURCH FROM LOONOVICH VILLAGE, KLETSK DISTRICT, WAS MOVED TO A DISTANCE OF 120 KM. The creation of ancient architects was transferred to one of the most picturesque hills on the banks of the Plich River, near Minsk, where the Byelorussian State Museum of Folk Architecture and Everyday Life is being set up.



Fete of fountains

An annual holiday of fountains in the Lower Park of the Petrodvorets, a Leningrad suburb, marked the 250th anniversary of the sculpture ensemble, "Samson Tearing a Lion's Mouth". This masterpiece was done on orders from Peter the Great but it was only after his death that the ensemble was completed. Cast of lead after a Rastrelli design, it was placed in the Grand Cascade fountains in 1735. But by the close of the century the sculpture had run to seed and they made a new model, this time of bronze. It somewhat differed from the original, for the figure of Samson gained in expression and dynamism. After capturing Petrodvorets fascist troops took the Samson and some other Grand Cascade figures away and all traces of them were lost.

Leningrad sculptors and specialists at the Monumentokup-lura works recreated the renowned composition. City old-timers remember that day, August 31, 1947, when a truck moved slowly along Nevsky Prospekt carrying a towering figure of Samson, which was inaugurated two weeks later in Petrodvorets.

FACTS and EVENTS

● The Soviet moratorium on any nuclear blast is a positive move. It aims at strengthening peace and the US should follow suit, stressed noted Black political and public figure Jesse Jackson.

● Only a quarter of the multi-million army of the American unemployed get unemployment benefits, reports the "LUE".

"News" paper run by the electrical engineering industry trade union. It further notes that around 6.4 million unemployed get no government aid at all.

Gold for Vyacheslav Yekimov

19-year-old Vyacheslav Yekimov of the USSR won the 4 km individual pursuit at Bassano del Grappa, Italy, in 4 min 40.04 sec. His teammate Umbras Cintautas was second in 4:41.01.

Yekimov has carried on the winning streak for the USSR, as Nikolai Mekarov and Viktor Kipovets dominated the event in various years. Roland Gintner of West-Berlin got the bronze medal.

Natalya Krushelnitskaya won the first medal for the USSR, beating compatriot Erika Salomae for third place in the sprint. The winner, 24-year-old Isabella Nicoloso of France, broke the first-place monopoly of American Connie Paraskevis who held the title since 1982.

Maylin Pene of Czechoslovakia averaged 47.584 kph to win the 50 km team race. Ivan Romanov of the USSR was only the tenth. The men's sprint went to 1980 Olympic winner Lutz Henschel of the GDR; his third with 1:11.4. His teammates Michael Hübner and Ralf Kusch were the second and third runners.



Vyacheslav Yekimov pedals to a gold medal. Photo AP-TASS.

VIETNAMESE PEOPLE CELEBRATE

Laos is marking the 40th anniversary of its revolution brought into existence by working people's state.

Laos is Asia on September 21. It will ahead were eight and resistance to French rule and ten years of against US imperialism and for the reunification of the Motherland.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam, which has overcome the legacy of years of war for freedom and independence, is making social and economic transformations. Together with the other socialist nations and progressives of the planet it conducts a consistent furthering peace and security of nations and opposing racism.

Vietnamese people really are glad to celebrate the big gains in the socialist transformation. The socialist sector accounts for 63 per cent of the national product. Last

year the country produced 4.9 million kWh of electric energy, 5.2 million tonnes of coal, 1.3 million tonnes of cement, nearly 70,000 tonnes of paper and 364 million metres of textile.

● Since the mid-50s Vietnam has reconstructed and built, with Soviet aid, over 200 industrial projects.

● Employment in various sectors of the economy rose over the past decade from 18.4 to 23.1 million people, with 92 per cent of them producing material values. The number of higher school graduates has jumped from 146,000 to 265,500.

● There are now 11,047,000 pupils studying at seven-year schools while there were only 178,000 of them in 1940. Another 732,000 students are at the 12-year schools and still another 155,000, at vocational training schools. The republic boasts 600 higher schools with a student body of 150,000.

● The average per hectare rice yield last year was 2,600 kg, twice as much as before the August Revolution.

Kaysone Phomvihane in the Soviet Union

General Secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Laos, Kaysone Phomvihane, arrived in Moscow for a working visit at the CPSU Central Committee, the President of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers.

The papers here stress that Soviet people cordially welcome Kaysone Phomvihane in this country and are convinced that the visit will significantly contribute to promoting friendship, fraternal unity and allround co-operation between the CPSU and the PRPL, the USSR and Laos, the Soviet and Laotian peoples.

UN Committee condemns South Africa

A special resolution of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination stresses that the situation in South Africa is a gross violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Committee urged all member states to take effective measures to bring about the elimination of racial discrimination in South Africa and to support the struggle of the South African people for freedom and independence.

supported the armed struggle of her people. Committee members stressed they were worried that, in complying with US military plans, Britain actually risks granting independence to small colonial island territories in the Atlantic and places them at the disposal of its partner which is building military bases there and pillaging their natural riches. The military facilities on some of the islands, the Committee resolution stresses, and the military activity there, including missile tests, not just undermine the rights of the people there but could endanger their lives and the country's economic activities.

AMERICAN SCIENTISTS FOR MORATORIUM

New York. The unilateral Soviet moratorium on any nuclear tests was warmly welcomed by American scientists. A group of 100 scientists, including 10 Nobel laureates, stressed a statement that the US should join the moratorium on nuclear tests. They emphasized that the US should take steps to relax tensions in Soviet-American relations and build up universal security, the statement emphasizes.

Three years ago, Samantha Smith, a Maine schoolgirl who visited Moscow after writing to the then Soviet leader Yuri Andropov, was among eight people killed when a light plane crashed near Auburn last night, airport officials said.

Samantha Smith killed in air crash

Auburn, Maine, Aug. 26. Reuter, Samantha Smith, the American schoolgirl who visited Moscow after writing to the then Soviet leader Yuri Andropov, was among eight people killed when a light plane crashed near Auburn last night, airport officials said.



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